



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2012 6:30-8:30pm

Attendance:

Julie Noble, Chair
Casey Schwarz
Gregg Swanzey

Guests:

Emilie Hauser

Meeting Minutes: The August 2012 CAC minutes were accepted with no amendments; Casey moved to accept, Gregg seconded. Motion Carried.

Old Business

Creek Week: To promote the Creek Week events, Julie distributed posters made up by the UC Department of the Environment for members to distribute/post. Julie will post at City Hall, Midtown Center, Hodge Center, Nature Center, Kingston Point Beach, Rondout Kayak building, Casey will post at ASK, Gregg and Emilie will post around town

Gregg will be participating in the Clearwater Barn Raising on September 15, and the September 22 WVRT hike at Rockwell Lane.

Sea Level Rise Task Force: Gregg did some research into who historically sat on the Waterfront Advisory Committee and what its origination was: it was set up for consistency review or the waterfront management plan, formed in 1986 and was called the Urban Cultural Parks committee, which was then morphed into the Heritage Area Commission. Gregg is working with Brenna Robinson to reform a new Waterfront Advisory Committee and is developing a list of potential members with help from the Mayor, Emilie and Julie.

There will be a planning meeting on September 25th for the Sea Level Rise Task Force in order to start formulating a plan with Scenic Hudson. This planning meeting should be small, could involve City Planning/Engineering. Also involved, along with Emilie will be Betsy Blair, Kristen Marcell, and Ona Ferguson.

There was a brief discussion about renaming the Task Force to something like a Waterfront Resiliency group and also about what activities would be best as recognizance: on the ground, drawing the line projected for sea level rise, using Bing or Google Earth to project change and determine the areas at risk. Emilie shared a clearinghouse of waterfront planning initiatives in Kingston so as to start thinking about resources.

New Business

CAC Membership and Term Expiration:

Julie noted the following term expirations:

Julie Noble: 1/1/13

Gregg Swanzey: 12/31/12

Liz Higgins: 12/31/12

Casey Schwarz: 12/31/12

Judith Deming: 5/30/13

Lillian Childress: 5/31/14

The CAC is allowed by State Law to have 9 seats and 2 additional high school seats. This leaves 5 seats available to fill at this time. Julie will check with Liz and Judith about reappointment.

For recruiting and populating the board, the group made informal nominations of about 20 people, of which the list was divided for current members to outreach for interest. Upcoming projects of interest include the Sea Level Rise Task Force, Open Space Planning, and Conservation/Sustainability Policies for City development. Terms are two years, at the appointment of the Mayor and all members must reside in Kingston.

Persons of interest will be invited to attend the October CAC meeting and to review the CAC's work through the website and annual reports.

Reports

Planning Board: Casey attended the last Planning Board meeting and made the following follow up comments:

The site plan submission for the Hudson Landing Promenade will be set for the fall; silos will be removed for development; Manna Jo Greene was there and raised questions about pervious pavement and building in floodplains.

There was a great discussion about how to improve the CAC's role and presence at Planning Board meetings and that once we build our capacity, to develop a set of conservation/sustainability policies for development.

Climate Smart Task Force: Sarina Pepper has taken on the responsibility of making the recommended amendments to the Climate Action Plan following the public comment period. She will be finalizing the changes by September 21, in order for hard and digital copies to be presented to Common Council members as needed for a projected formal presentation date of September 27th at the Public Safety meeting. Julie has submitted a formal letter to President Noble requesting referral to committee and adoption of the Climate Action Plan, and is awaiting response.

Julie will send out a Doodle Poll for the Task Force to meet shortly after September 27.

NEXT MEETING: October 4, 2012, 6:30pm

Adjournment: 8:55pm, Gregg moved to adjourn, Casey seconded.